# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:112
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
USE OF SPURIOUS SEEDS
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation on seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its objectives;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost production and availability of quality seeds;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of Indian farmers with regard to seed trade; and

(e) the details of steps taken to safeguard farmers who lose their crop due to the use of spurious seeds supplied by the concerned seed companies, State-wise?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Government of India proposes to replace the present Seeds Act, 1966.

(b): The salient features of the proposed Seeds Act, and its objectives is at Annexure-I

(c) & (d): Government of India are, inter-alia, operating the following schemes to boost the production and availability of quality seeds.

1. Transport subsidy on seeds.
2. Pilot scheme on seed crop insurance.
3. Establishment of Seed Bank.
4. Quality Control arrangement on seeds.

In addition, States have been advised to ensure effective enforcement of the provisons of Seeds Act, 1966 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. In order to further protect the interest of Indian farmers with regard to seed trade, suitable provisions are proposed to be introduced in the revised Seeds Act.

(e): Information is being called from the State Governments.

Annexure-I

The salient features of the proposed revised Seeds Act & its objectives.

- Establishment of National Seeds Board is proposed in the place of Central Seed Committee and Central Seed Certification Board.
- The Central Government may establish a Central Seed Testing Laboratory (CSTL) or declare any seed Laboratory as a CSTL, to carry out the functions.
- Seed of any kind or variety for the purpose of sowing or planting will be sold in the country only if the said kind or variety has been registered by the National Seeds Board as per the criteria prescribed.

- Registration will be granted for new varieties on the basis of multi-locational trials to determine Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) over a minimum period of 3 seasons or as otherwise prescribed.

- The Board will accredit ICAR Centres, State Agriculture Universities and private

organizations to conduct VCU trials for the purpose of registration.

- A National Register of Varieties of registered under this Act will be maintained by the National Seeds Board.

- The Government will have the right to exclude certain kind or varieties from registration to protect public order or public morality or human, animal and plant life and health or to avoid serious prejudice to the environment.

- National Seeds Board will specify minimum standards on germination, genetic and physical purity with respect to any seed of a registered kind or variety.
- The mark or label on the seed consignment will indicate that such seed conforms to the minimum standards, as specified.
- The registration will be granted for a fixed period.
- The National Seeds Board will have power to cancel the registration granted earlier.
- For regulating sale of seeds, no person or dealer will be allowed to carry on the business of selling or supplying any seed which is not of a registered kind/variety.
- Every dealer will maintain relevant records and submit periodic returns regarding sale particulars.
- If it is considered necessary in public interest, the National Seeds Board can direct a dealer to sell or distribute seed in a specified manner.
- All dealers are required to follow specific procedure with respect to the business of selling seeds. Farmers will not be required to register their kind or variety to save, use, exchange, share or sell his farm seeds and planting material. The State Government or the National Seeds Board, in consultation with the State Government, will establish one or more certification agencies for the State to carry out the functions relating to certification of seed.
- National Seeds Board or the State Government may accredit individuals or organizations to carry out certification, including self-certification on fulfillment of criteria prescribed by the Board.
- There are suitable provisions for revocation of certificate, appeal, designation of Seed Inspectors and Seed Analysts etc.

- For controlling export and import of seeds, suitable provisions have been made which are in harmony with the provisions of the Plant, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of import into India) Order, 1989.

- Import of seed for sale shall be permitted only of registered varieties. Registration of such varieties shall be granted on the basis of trials conducted for minimum period of 3 seasons in India.
- An unregistered variety may be allowed to be imported in limited quantity for research and trial purposes on the basis of data from trial over one season in the country of origin.
- Any person intending to import seed or planting material will declare that such materials is, or is not, as the case may be a product of transgenic manipulation or involves Genetic Use Restriction Technology.

- The penalty provisions have been made more stringent compared to the existing provisions in the Seeds Act, 1966.